



MOHS Awards \$357,127 Grant to Pascagoula Police Department

Funds will be used for first responder equipment

PASCAGOULA, Miss. (April 2, 2012) – The Pascagoula Police Department has been awarded a \$357,127 port security grant for first responder equipment. The grant is presented by the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security, on behalf of the Mississippi Department of Public Safety.

The funds will be used to outfit a boat for use in harbor patrol and first responder activities. The boat will be manned by a firefighter/EMT and a member of the police department and will be able to provide first aid services in addition to firefighting capabilities.

“The Port of Pascagoula is very important to the city of Pascagoula and the security of the port is important to the Pascagoula Police Department,” said Sergeant Doug Adams with the public affairs division of the Pascagoula Police Department. “By receiving this grant the Pascagoula Police Department will be able to provide security for the port on a routine basis in all types of conditions, day or night. This vessel will have state-of-the-art electronic equipment and will also be able to provide the port with firefighting capabilities on the water. Without this grant it would have been almost impossible for us to obtain this vessel and provide these services to the Port of Pascagoula.”

The grant is part of a \$200 million federal program being administered by the United States Department of Homeland Security to improve emergency management and preparedness capabilities at the state, local and community levels. It also seeks to improve response capabilities for catastrophic natural disasters, potential for weapons of mass destruction, acts of terrorism, and chemical/biological/radiological/nuclear/explosive incidents.

“The Port of Pascagoula plays a key role in facilitating trade between our nation and the rest of the world,” said J.W. Ledbetter, Director of the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security. “A direct attack or damage by natural disaster could affect not only the operations of the harbor but also destroy critical infrastructure surrounding the port. Having the proper security measures in place minimizes disruption of maritime trade and the infrastructure that supports it.”

The Mississippi Office of Homeland Security, a division of the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, in fiscal year 2011 will distribute more than \$5.29 million in Homeland Security Grant Program funding in Mississippi for training and equipment.

For more information go to www.homelandsecurity.ms.gov

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